Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-60 (Cancelled)

61. (Currently Amended) A system for monitoring ~~weight loss or weight management of~~ a patient with a chronic condition and establishing communication to a remote office regarding parameters of the patient, the ~~communication~~ system transferring information from a first location to a remote office location, the system comprising:

(a) a monitoring apparatus at the first location comprising

a transducing device generating an electronic signal representative of the patient's weight;

a processor operatively coupled to the transducing device and arranged to process the electronic signals from the transducing device;

a communication device operatively coupled to the processor and to a communication network;

an output device operatively coupled to the processor arranged to present ~~a series of~~ questions to the patient, ~~at least one of the questions~~ relating to the patient's perception of the patient's condition~~diet or exercise regimen~~;

an input device operatively coupled to the processor arranged to receive ~~inputs~~ answers from the patient in response to the ~~queries~~ questions; and

(b) a processing computer at the remote office location, the processing computer in communication with the monitoring apparatus, wherein the processing computer receives the electronic signal representing the patient's weight and also receives the inputs from the input device, wherein the processing computer ~~issues an alert if it is determined that caregiver intervention is required~~ is configured to determine, based at least upon a portion of the answers to the questions regarding perception of the patient's condition, if the chronic condition is acute.

62. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the monitoring apparatus comprises:

a base, the base including the transducing device;

a housing, the housing including the processor, the communication device, the input device, and the output device; and

a support member extending between the base and the housing.

63. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the communication device is a modem.

64. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the communication between the monitoring apparatus and processing computer occurs via an RS-232 port.

65. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the communication between the monitoring apparatus and the processing computer occurs via the Internet.

66. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the communication device is an infrared communication device.

67. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the communication device is a satellite communication device.

68. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the communication device is an Radio Frequency (RF) transceiver.

69. (Previously presented) The system of claim 68, wherein the RF transceiver has two portions, the first portion being operatively coupled to the processor and in commpunication with the second portion, the second portion being located remotely from the first portion and operatively coupled to the communication network.

70. (Previously presented) The system according to claim 69, wherein the second portion of the RF transceiver includes a wall mounting mechanism.

71. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein a nurse is in communication with the patient through the communication network.

72. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the output device is a synthetic speech communication device arranged to audibly communicate information to the patient.

73. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the output device is a visual display device.

74. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 61, wherein the output device is a programmer for a pacemaker.

75. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the processing computer determines the requirement for caregiver intervention by analyzing points associated with the inputs from the patient.

76. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein the processing computer determines the requirement for caregiver intervention by totaling points associated with the inputs from the patient and comparing the total with a threshold.

77. (Currently Amended) A method for monitoring ~~weight loss or weight management of~~ a patient with a chronic condition and establishing communication to a remote office regarding parameters of the patient, the method comprising:

measuring the patient's weight with a transducing device generating an electronic signal representative of the patient's weight;

processing the electronic signals representing the patient's weight with a processor operatively coupled to the transducing device;

presenting ~~a series of~~ questions to the patient, ~~at least one of the questions~~ relating to the patient's perception of the patient's condition ~~diet or exercise regimen~~ with an output device coupled to the processor;

receiving, in response to the questions ~~queries~~, ~~inputs~~ answers from the patient with an input device operatively coupled to the processor;

communicating the patient ~~inputs~~ answers and the electronic signals representing the patient's weight to a remote processing computer with a communication device operatively coupled to the processor and to a communication network; and

analyzing the patient ~~inputs~~ answers and the electronic signals representing the patient's weight with the remote processing computer to determine, based upon at least a portion of the answers to the questions regarding perception of the patient's condition, if the chronic condition is acute ~~issue an alert if it is determined that caregiver intervention is required~~.

78. (Previously presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the communicating step is accomplished via a modem.

79. (Previously presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the communicating step is accomplished via an RS-232 port.

80. (Previously presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the communicating step is accomplished via the Internet.

81. (Previously presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the communicating step is accomplished via an infrared communication device.

82. (Previously presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the communicating step is accomplished via a satellite communication device.

83. (Previously presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the communicating step is accomplished via an Radio Frequency (RF) transceiver.

84. (Previously presented) The method of claim 83, wherein a first portion of the RF transceiver is operatively coupled to the processor and communicates with a second portion of the RF transceiver, and wherein the second portion is located remotely from the first portion and is operatively coupled to the communication network.

85. (Previously presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the presenting step is accomplished via a synthetic speech communication device arranged to audibly communicate information to the patient.

86. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the presenting step is accomplished via a visual display device.

87. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 77, wherein the presenting step is accomplished via a programmer for a pacemaker.

88. (Previously presented) The method of claim 77, wherein the analyzing step includes analyzing points associated with the inputs from the patient to determine whether caregiver intervention is required.

89. (Previously presented) The method of claim 88, wherein the analyzing step includes totaling points associated with the inputs from the patient and comparing the total with a threshold.